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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical
Officer of Health

1943

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Urban District Council**

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**ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF
FEATHERSTONE
for the
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1943**

To the Chairman and Members of the Council :

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of placing before you the Annual Report on the Health of your District for the year ended 31st December 1943, along with the Report of your Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Hilsley).

Owing to the prevailing conditions, both Reports are abbreviated, and only salient facts referred to.

It is with profound regret that I have to report the death of Dr. William Steven, your former Medical Officer, who died in November 1943 after a life-time of devoted service to Featherstone. He had been Medical Officer of Health for 23 years, and his loss has been felt by all, and not least by those of us who were privileged to work with him in the Health Department.

POPULATION. The population for 1943, as given to me by the Registrar General, is 12310, a decrease of 40 on the previous year.

The size of the Sanitary Area is 4425 acres and contains 3492 houses, giving a census of 3.5 per house.

During the year no new houses have been erected.

RATEABLE VALUE—

April 1943, £51280

1d Rate (gross) equals	£213.14. 0
1d Rate (net) equals	£193.19. 8
General Rate laid April 1943	£46556. 2. 0

WATER USED—

Half-year to March 1943...35,841,000 gallons costing £2838. 3. 1
Half-year to Sept. 1943.....38,511,000 gallons costing £3450.16. 1

Average cost per 1000 gallons—19.33 pence plus 5%

RAINFALL DURING 1943—

January	2.64 inches
February	0.65 inches
March	0.55 inches
April	1.16 inches
May	1.64 inches
June	1.35 inches
July	0.96 inches
August	2.60 inches
September	3.05 inches
October	0.99 inches
November	1.78 inches
December	1.13 inches
<hr/>	
	18.50 inches

The wettest month was September with 3.05 inches, and the driest month was March with 0.55 inches. There were 258 days during the year when no rain fell.

OUT RELIEF (PUBLIC ASSISTANCE). The total cost of Relief from 1st April 1943 to 31st March 1944 was £4172/8/8 (38 men, 49 women, 39 children—total 126 people).

UNEMPLOYMENT. There were 24 persons unemployed at the end of December 1943 (22 men and 2 women).

BIRTH RATE. 257 Live births were registered during the year (134 males and 123 females), 7 males being illegitimate and

5 females. In addition to the Live births there were 9 Still births (1 illegitimate).

This gives a Live Birth Rate of 20.9 and Still Births 0.73.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1943 was 16.5 and Still Births 0.51.

DEATH RATE. Total deaths during the year were 141 (78 males and 63 females) giving a Death Rate of 11.4.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.1.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. This is measured by the proportion of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Registered Births. The total Deaths under 1 year was 17, and the total Live Births 257, giving an Infantile Mortality of 66.

The Infantile Mortality figure for last year was 31—a low record.

The Infantile Mortality figure for England and Wales during 1943 was 49.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE. The deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases (Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea) amount to 3, giving a Zymotic Death Rate of 0.24.

The following Table shows the number of Infectious Cases notified to me during the year 1943—

	Notified	Deaths
Typhoid	...	-
Scarlet Fever	...	48
Diphtheria	...	26
Erysipelas	...	7
Whooping Cough	...	41
Measles	...	419
Pneumonia	...	37
Puerperal Fever	...	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-
	580	12

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1943

		Male	Female
Typhoid	...	...	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	-
Scarlet Fever	...	...	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	-
Diphtheria	...	...	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	4
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	...	...	1
Syphilis	...	...	-
Influenza	...	...	3
Measles	...	...	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	-
Cancer of Mouth, Gullet & Uterus	...	...	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	1
Cancer of Breast	...	...	-
Cancer (all other sites)	...	...	3
Diabetes	...	...	2
Apoplexy (Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions)	...	7	3
Heart Diseases	...	22	18
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	-	-
Bronchitis	...	7	-
Pneumonia	...	3	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	-	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	-	1
Appendicitis	...	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	...	3	-
Nephritis	...	1	2
Puerperal Sepsis	...	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	...	-	-
Premature Birth	...	1	2
Congenital Malformality, Birth Injuries etc.	...	2	3
Suicide	...	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	...	1	-
Other Violent Causes	...	1	1
All Other Causes	...	6	7
		78	63

IMMUNISING. Every effort has been made by my Council to increase the number of children immunised against Diphtheria during 1943. All schools have been visited (9 in all). In addition, immunisation has been carried out at special sessions at the Child Welfare Clinics and by the Doctors at their own surgeries.

During the year, 420 children were immunised. It is estimated that 51% of children under 5, and 77% of children between 5 and 15, are now immunised in this district.

Causes and Ages at Death during the Year 1943

CAUSES	All Ages	Un-	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-	25-	45-	Ov'r
		der 1yr	yrs	yrs	yrs	25 yrs	45 yrs	60 yrs	60 yrs
Typhoid	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	8	-	-	-	-	3	4	1	-
Tuberculosis(Other Forms)	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilis	...	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Influenza	...	9	2	-	-	-	2	1	4
Measles	...	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Ant. Poliomyelitis...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer of—									
Mouth, Gullet & Uterus	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Stomach & Duodenum	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Breast	...	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
All Others	...	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	5
Diabetes	...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Apoplexy (Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions)	...	10	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
Heart Diseases	...	40	-	-	-	-	2	2	5
Other Circulatory Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis	...	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Pneumonia	...	10	2	1	1	-	-	2	4
Other Resp. Diseases	...	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach & Duod.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs)...	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Nephritis	...	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Sepsis	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Premature Births	...	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformality, Birth Injuries etc.	...	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Road Accidents	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Violence	...	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
All Other Causes	...	13	-	-	1	1	-	3	8
Totals	141	17	3	3	2	5	16	21	74

STATEMENT OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES RECEIVED DURING 1943

Cases notified or otherwise ascertained

to Hospital
Cases removed

1	Puerperal Pyrexia	
37	Acute Pneumonia (Primary or Influenza)	
-	Typhoid	
26	Diphtheria (Incl. Membraneous Croup)	
48	Scarlet Fever	
1	Puerperal Pyrexia	
-	Acute Poliomyelitis	
-	Acute Polio Encephalitis	
-	Dysentery	
1	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
7	Erysipelas	
19	Respiratory Tuberculosis (new cases only)	
6	Other Forms Tuberculosis (new cases only)	
-	Malaria (contracted in this country)	
-	Malaria (contracted abroad)	
-	Chickendox	
41	Whooping Cough	
419	Measles (excluding German Measles)	
48	Scarlet Fever	
26	Diphtheria	
-	Enteric Fever	
-	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	
9	Other Diseases (including Tuberculosis)	

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1943

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulm.	Non.Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 and under 5	...	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 and under 10	...	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 and under 15	...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
15 and under 20	...	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
20 and under 35	...	4	2	1	-	2	2	-
35 and under 45	...	-	2	2	-	1	1	-
45 and under 55	...	3	1	-	-	1	-	-
55 and under 65	...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	14	5	5	1	4	4	-	1

Number of Cases on Tuberculosis Register

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm.		Total		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
On Register 1 Jan. 1943	...	43	35	29	36	72	71
Added during year	...	14	5	5	1	19	6
Totals	57	40	34	37	91	77	

Removed from Register						
during 1943	...	7	6	-	-	7
On Register 31 Dec. 1943	...	50	34	34	37	84

Reasons for Removal of Cases from Tuberculosis Register

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	M	F	
Died	...	4	4	-	-
Revision of Diagnosis	...	1	2	-	-
Recovered	...	1	-	-	-
Left District	...	1	-	-	-
Totals	7	6	-	-	

TUBERCULOSIS. There has been an increased incidence of Tuberculosis: 25 new cases were notified during 1943 as opposed to 21 in 1942. There were 9 deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

The Death Rate for Tuberculosis was 0.73.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES treated in Isolation Hospital. Costs: 48 Scarlet Fever cases and 26 Diphtheria cases were sent to Isolation Hospital. There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever, but 1 from Diphtheria.

The cost to the ratepayers for Hospital Maintenance of Scarlet Fever cases (2230 days) was £374/3/8, and for Diphtheria cases (1127 days) £191/10/8.

MEASLES. 419 cases were all treated at home without assistance, and there was 1 death.

CANCER. 14 deaths occurred during the year, 8 being males and 6 females, showing that 10% of the total deaths were due to this disease.

VACCINATION. 90 Primary Vaccinations were performed during 1943, showing that only 35% of the children born alive were protected. This is an improvement on 1942, when only 23% were protected.

VENEREAL DISEASE. 25 new cases attended at the V.D. Clinic, Wakefield, for treatment, and 10 of these cases proved to be V.D. I am indebted to the Surgeon for this information.

SCABIES. 143 cases of Scabies were treated at the First-Aid Post during 1943, as opposed to 43 cases treated in the last quarter of 1942, when the service was first begun. The institution of this service has been of much value to the community, and we are greatly indebted to the good work of the First-Aid Post staff for their willing and efficient help in this matter.

VERMINOUS HEADS. The number of verminous heads treated at the Featherstone School Clinic was 21.

AMBULANCE SERVICES. 944 journeys were made by the two Ambulances during 1943. The total mileage covered was 9542. These figures show the extreme value to the community of these services, and the work of drivers and attendants is worthy of high commendation.

HOUSING AND PRIVATE STREETS. Both are in abeyance until the war is over.

SANITARY WORK. Our water supply is good and ample. All the houses in the district, with the exception of one, are connected with the Public Water supply. The cost per 1000 gallons was 19.33 pence plus 5%.

DRAINAGE. With the exception of Ackton Wood Pastures, the drainage and the two Sewage Farms are satisfactory.

SCAVENGING. The collection and disposal of House Refuse is done entirely by the Council workmen, and efficiently.

During the year, 1906 loads were removed to the Destructor, 2633 loads to the Tips, and 3765 loads of liquid were removed from Cesspools to farm-land. The cost of collection and disposal for the year amounts to £4255/9/7.

We still have 51 Cesspools in this area, mostly associated with detached houses and Ackton Wood Pastures. The cost in wages alone in giving attention to these cesspools was £377/15/2.

During the year, 2 privies were demolished and replaced by water closets, 13 water closets were provided for new buildings, and 2 wet ashpits and 3 dry ashpits were replaced by 14 dust bins.

We now have—

3033 water and waste-water closets

30 pail closets

348 privies

201 wet ashpits

301 dry ashpits

3003 dust bins

We have 88.50% of the houses in this area on the water-carriage system.

Mr. Hilsley's Report is incorporated. The efficiency of his department remains at a very high level.

The West Riding County Council are the supervising authority for Child Welfare and Maternity Work for this area.

There are 3 centres for Child Welfare, 1 centre for Ante-Natal work, and 1 centre for Toddlers.

Three Certified Mid-wives were engaged throughout the year.

The need for the institution of a District Nursing Service working in co-operation with your Health Department is very great.

In conclusion, I earnestly thank all the members of my Council for their kindly support on all occasions.

I am

Yours faithfully

J. DUNCAN, M.B.

M.O.H.

July 1944

**URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF
FEATHERSTONE**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1943

To the Chairman and Members of the Council :

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Seventeenth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary and Cleansing Department for the year ended 31st December 1943.

In accordance with instructions, the report is curtailed, and statistics affecting this department which are embodied in the Medical Officer of Health's report are not repeated.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION. The conversion of closets has again had to be postponed on account of shortage of materials and labour, and this is a matter which should receive attention as soon as circumstances permit.

SCAVENGING is done by direct labour, and has been sat-

isfactorily carried out during the year. Considerable difficulties have been encountered in obtaining spare parts for the motor transport, but the situation was relieved somewhat by the acquisition of a new Bedford motor wagon in August.

The estimated weight of refuse collected was 7880 tons. Of this quantity, 3872 tons were incinerated at the destructor works, and of the remainder, 180 tons were recovered as salvage, and 3828 tons disposed of by tipping. In addition, 2765 loads of liquid from cesspools were disposed of on farm land.

SALVAGE of materials useful to the war effort has been carried out during the year, and the following materials were salvaged and sold—

tons	cwts	qrs	lbs		£	s	d
44	2	-	-	Waste Paper	298	7	10
56	4	1	-	Kitchen Waste	84	6	3
11	14	-	-	Cullet (Broken Glass)	17	11	0
1	3	-	-	Waste Rubber	2	17	6
1	6	1	8	Bones	6	5	0
2	12	1	21	Textiles	43	5	3
52	4	1	-	Ferrous Metals	59	17	8
-	6	-	19	Non-Ferrous Metals	7	0	3
10	7	2	-	Bottles and Jars	57	0	2
179	19	3	20		£576	10	11

FOOD SUPPLY—

MILK. Routine visits were paid to the farms, and on the whole the premises were kept in a reasonable condition. Two new registrations of cowkeepers were made during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. Slaughtering of animals is centralised and with the exception of pigs slaughtered for private pigkeepers, is not now carried on in your district.

Food inspection is still necessary, and during the year the following articles of food have been condemned as unfit for human consumption and surrendered by the shopkeepers—

Eggs	...	483
Sugar	...	2 cwt
Butter and Fats	...	50 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb
Cheese	...	108 lb
Jam	...	17 lb
Tinned Fruit	...	69 lb
Tinned & Untinned Meats		452 lb
Soups	...	9 tins
Tinned Milk	...	95 tins
Tinned Fish	...	40 lb
Preserves	...	14 bottles

SANITARY INSPECTION AND NUISANCES DISCOVERED. Essential inspections for Nuisances and Housing were made during the year. Great difficulty has been experienced in securing the prompt execution of the necessary repairs owing to the shortage of both labour and materials.

772 nuisances were discovered of which the greater proportion were abated after service of Informal Notice. 16 Statutory Notices were served, but legal proceedings were not necessary.

HOUSING. No new houses were erected during the year. 109 houses were dealt with under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1936, and of these, 90 were rendered fit after Informal Notices. 19 Statutory Notices were served, 11 of which had been complied with at the end of the year, together with 5 outstanding from the previous year, leaving 8 still outstanding.

During the year, 76 houses were dealt with under Section 11 Housing Act 1936, and the owners met the Council to discuss the position. These houses (all of the back-to-back type) were in such a condition that it was agreed that temporary repairs only be carried out, and that the houses, as they came vacant, should remain vacant until demolitions could be carried out.

18 of these houses were vacant at the end of the year. The position here is quite serious, and consideration will have to be given to this problem in the post-war programme.

CONCLUSION. I beg to tender my best thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, to my Staff, and to my brother officials for their help, and to you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your support during a year rendered difficult by the circumstances prevailing.

I am, Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

JOHN HILSLEY

Chief Sanitary Inspector

